

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 1350

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: ENERGY: EC-ARAB COOPERATION DECISION

REF: BRUSSELS 1335

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS EXPLANATION GIVEN TO
AMBASSADOR BY DAVIGNON OF EC-NINE INTENTIONS TOWARDS
ARAB STATES. END SUMMARY

2. SUSEQUENT TO TELEPHONE CONVERSATION (REFTEL) I
MET AT HIS REQUEST WITH DIRGEN DAVIGNON AND AMBAS-
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SADOR DE STAERCKE AT NOON TODAY. DAVIGNON SAID HE
HAD BEEN INFORMED BY HIS GERMAN COLLEAUGE OF THE
GIST OF THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS TO FOREIGN MINISTER
SCHEEL IN CONVERSATION FOLLOWING SECRETARY'S

BRIEFING IN THE NAC. ACCORDING TO THE GERMAN SOURCE, THE SECRETARY HAD SAID TO SCHEEL THAT THE U.S. MUST RESERVE ITS POSITION NOT ONLY TOWARDS EC-NINE AGREEMENT RE COOPERATION WITH ARAB COUNTRIES BUT QTE ON WHOLE RANGE OF US-EUROPEAN RELATIONSHIPS UNQTE.

3. DAVIGNON SAID HE WANTED TO CLARIFY EC-NINE POSITION ON COOPERATION WITH ARAB STATES WHICH, HE INFERRED, WAS THE CAUSE OF THE CANCELLATION OF THE MEETING SCHEDULED BETWEEN UNDERSECRETARY DONALDSON AND AMBASSADOR OCKRENT AND OTHER BELGIAN OFFICIALS TODAY. DAVIGNON SAID THAT AT ISSUE WAS NOTHING LESS THAN THE SINCERITY OF THE COMMITMENT OF THE EC-EIGHT TO COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. IN THE ENERGY COORDINATING GROUP, AGREED UPON AT THE FEBRUARY 14 CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON. HE WISHED TO ASSURE ME OF THE SINCERITY OF THIS COMMITMENT, NOTWITHSTANDING THE FACT THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER APPEARS TO QUESTION IT. THE EC-EIGHT ACCEPTED A BREAK WITH FRANCE. THIS FACT ALONE SHOULD ASSURE US ABOUT THE EC-EIGHT COMMITMENT. THE SINCERITY OF THE COMMITMENT WILL BE BORNE OUT MORE CONVINCINGLY BY "FAITS" NAMELY THE CONCRETE CONTRIBUTION OF THE EC-EIGHT TO THE WORK OF THE COORDINATING GROUP THAN BY FURTHER ASSURANCES ABOUT THE ACTUAL NATURE OF THE EC-NINE PROJECT FOR COOPERATION WITH 20 ARAB STATES.

4. THE EC-NINE ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE THREE U.S. OBJECTIONS TO EC-NINE/ARAB EXCHANGES, NAMELY:
FIRST, THAT THE EC-NINE INITIATIVE WEAKENED U.S. EFFORTS TOWARDS PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST;
SECONDLY, THAT THE EC INITIATIVE DEALS SEPARATELY WITH ENERGY;
THIRD, EC-NINE/ARAB DEALINGS WILL BE POLITICALLY DANGEROUS.
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5. THESE THREE OBJECTIONS ARE NOT VALID FOR THE REASONS THAT:
FIRST, FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL HAS ASSURED THE SECRETARY THAT THE EC-NINE AGREEMENT MERELY PROVIDES A MANDATE FOR EXPLORATORY CONVERSATIONS FREE OF POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS;
SECOND, SCHEEL HAS ASSURED THE SECRETARY THAT EXPLORATORY CONVERSATIONS DO NOT AND CANNOT DEAL WITH ENERGY BECAUSE 13 AMONG THE 20 ARAB STATES DO NOT PRODUCE OIL, AND THAT THERE IS NO INTENTION TO UNDERCUT ACTION BY THE ENERGY COORDINATING GROUP;
THIRD, THE EXPLORATORY TALKS WILL BE EXTENDED OVER SEVERAL MONTHS, I.E., WELL BEYOND

THE TIME FRAME SET FOR THE ENERGY COORDINATING GROUP AND U.S. NEGOTIATIONS FOR A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT; FURTHERMORE, THE HOLDING OF A CONFERENCE WITH ARAB STATES ON A MINISTERIAL LEVEL WILL BE ENTIRELY CONTINGENT UPON A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME OF THE EXPLORATORY TALKS.

6. IN BRIEF MEETING OF EC-NINE AND 20 ARAB STATES WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME KIND OF PRE-CONDITIONS AS APPLIED TO CONVENING THE HELSINKI (CSCE) CONFERENCE.

7. THE FACT THAT THE EC-NINE WERE WELL AWARE OF THE US OBJECTIONS BESPEAKS THE FACT THAT PRIOR CONSULTATIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE BEFORE THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL.

8. AMBASSADOR DE STAERCKE SAID (AND DAVIGNON EMPHATICALLY AGREED) THAT THE US ATTITUDE PLACES THE EC-EIGHT IN A MOST DIFFICULT POSITION. AFTER HAVING MADE THE DIFFICULT DECISION TO BREAK WITH FRANCE AT WASHINGTON, THE EC-EIGHT NOW FIND THEMSELVES EXPOSED TO BOTH US AND FRENCH DISPLEASURE. IF THE US PERSISTS IN REBUFFING EC-EIGHT COOPERATION THE EC-EIGHT WILL BE DRIVEN BACK INTO THE ARMS OF THE FRENCH. DAVIGNON CONCLUDED HIS STATEMENT BY SAYING THAT IF THE UNITED STATES WERE TO WITHDRAW FROM THE COORDINATING GROUP IT WOULD MAKE JOBERT A PRESENT.
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9. I SAID I COULD ONLY NOTE THE BEIGAN STATEMENT BUT COULD NOT COMMENT ON IT. STRAUSS-HUPE

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